

BLUE EARTH COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 15, 2007

The Environmental Services Advisory Committee met on Thursday, November 15, 2007 in the Steamboat Room, Gov't Center at 3:45 pm. Present were: Joe Kubicek, Dan Sargent, Kate Thompson and John Zehnder; Scott Fichtner, Vickie Finnegan, and Dave Kronlokken of the Environmental Services Department. Not present were: Wanda Winch, Kip Bruender, Patty Woodruff and Jack Considine.

Dan Sargent, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Joe Kubicek moved and Kate Thompson seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Kate Thompson moved and Joe Kubicek seconded the motion to approve the July 19, 2007 minutes. The motion carried.

Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services Department, presented a brief history of the Blue Earth County Environmental Services Advisory Committee Bylaws and a *DRAFT* of proposed changes in the bylaws. Discussion was held on the proposed changes and the process for approval of the updated bylaws. The committee was asked to look closely at language and wording for any recommended suggestions.

Kate Thompson moved and Joe Kubicek seconded the motion to table approval of the proposed bylaws until the meeting of January 17, 2008 to give the committee additional time to further review the *DRAFT* of the proposed bylaws. The motion carried with all voting aye.

Dan Sargent, Chair, complimented Scott in putting together the *DRAFT* proposal for the Advisory Committee Bylaws.

Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services Department, gave the following update for the Recycling Education Committee: new radio commercials for burn barrels, Holiday recycling and what is or is not recyclable.

For the Commissioner's Update report, it was reported that the Justice Center is nearing full enclosure. The structure will be heated for the winter so construction can continue on the inside of the building.

Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services, presented the following information:

Solid Waste, Recycling: SCORE Funding for 1st Half of Fiscal Year 2008, Xcel Energy discussing extending the life of the ash landfill, SWAA Conference; **Ponderosa Landfill:** MVTL fall sampling round completed, Aerators out of the leachate collection ponds, Biofilter upgrade for landfill gas, Landfill safety procedures, Leachate seep, Re-Permitting Process, tours of landfills; **Hazardous Waste:** Facility closed for the season for residential collection, Bulking building completed, Mobile collections, Chemistry Meets Reality training, Waste pesticide collection discussions, North American Hazardous Materials Association Conference (NAHMA) Pharmaceuticals;

Miscellaneous: Environmental Health Specialist position, Nuisance complaints, Electronic Permitting software, AMC meetings "Growing Through Change" December 3-5, No December ESAC meeting.

The following informational articles were distributed: **Star Tribune** – "Major Retailers Find Good Things Come From Greener Packaging", "Composts Rake 'Em' In", "Everyone Talks About Recycling...", "Fluorescent Evolution", "It Is Amazing How Much We Don't Know About Our Water Resources", "The Mall Versus the Marsh", "We Have 10,000 Lakes, But Do We Have Enough of These?", "Eco-Friendly Play? He's Game", "A House That's a Showcase for Green Living", "Nobel Conference: Price of Pollution", "Trees Telling a Tale of Climate Change", "Lake Superior Called Early Victim of Climate Change", "Can We Bury CO2 in North Dakota Prairie?"; **Free Press** – "Senators Want to Avoid Digital Train Wreck", "MPCA Searches for Culprit After Computers Found Dumped in Lake", "Tupper Wars", "They're Still Wetlands and Still Need Protection", "Cobb Cleanup", "Electricity Goes Through The Roof", "Dispose of Meds Using Kitty Litter", "Arctic Ice Retreats to Record Low"; **Waste News** – "Dell: Companies Taking Big Risks with E-Waste", "HP Sets Billion-Pound Goal for E-Waste", "Study: Laser Printers Pose Health Hazards", "Deadline to Diversion"; **Time Magazine** – "Little Green Schoolhouse", "The Cost of Being Green", "The Eco Vote", "Briefing: Global Warming", "Eco-Rebels"; **County News** – "Waste from Analog to Digital TV

Switch Worries Officials”, “Go Green Affordably With Environmentally Preferable Products”, “9 Ways to Go Green”; **NCRA News** – “Supreme Court Permits Flow Control to Public Facility”; **City and County** – “New York Counties Earn Dibs on Waste”; **USA Weekend** – “Garbage In, Less Garbage Out”, “It’s Easy Traveling Green”, “A New Clue to Today’s Global Warming?”; **St. Peter Herald** – “Ten Tons of Paint”; **Minnesota Counties** – “Septic Regulation Changes at MPCA”; **St. Paul Pioneer Press** – “Can Bioplastics Catch a Break?”; **Pierre Capital Journal** – “Smoke School”.

There was no Old Business.

Under New Business a discussion was held on meeting rooms for the Advisory Committee. A thank you was given to Scott Fichtner for getting a Sympathy Card for Wanda Winch.

There will no advisory committee meeting on December 20, 2007.

The next advisory committee meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2008.

John Zehnder moved and Kate Thompson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 pm.